

“He Must Increase, but I Must Decrease”

John 3:22-30

- I have joy in my Master’s *glory*

who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.”

- I have joy in my Master’s *joy*

The testimony of a true servant:

1. An Understanding of the True Source of Advance and Recognition vv. 26-27

(1) The Concern of John’s Disciples

“...behold, He (Jesus) is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!”

- some hurt and envy!
- jealousy for John’s reputation

-4- Thus, I have joy in the news of my Master’s advance!

(2) John’s Answer

“A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.”

- 1- God is entirely in control in this matter!
- 2- All true advance and acclamation comes from Him alone!

3. A Full Commitment to the “Trajectory of Servant hood”

v. 30

(1) A Particular Application to John in his unique ministry

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

(2) An Application to Every Servant of Christ!

- The glory of Christ increasingly seen in the life
- The concerns of self recede to the background

2. A Full Commitment to God’s Plan and Christ’s Glory vv. 28-29

(1) John’s testimony clear and consistent!

“You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but ‘I have been sent before Him.’”

- 1- He was not the Christ
- 2- His place of service was indeed vital, but subservient and temporary!
- 3- All was proceeding according to God’s plan!

Further Application:

(2) A Metaphor - to clarify the place of John’s Ministry: Bridegroom and Best Man

- 1- The Lord Jesus is the Bridegroom! *“He who has the bride is the bridegroom”*
- 2- He is the One who rightly has the devotion of His Bride!
- 3- I am merely the friend of the bridegroom! *“but the friend of the bridegroom,*